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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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15 December 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 305

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ASSEMBLY FORMS COMMITTEE TO STUDY IMPROVED HEALTH CARE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Nov 82 pp 1, 9

[Text]

BAIN TOWN MP Dr Norman Gay was named by House of Assembly Speaker Sir Clifford Darling Wednesday to chair a select committee to consider matters relating to expanding and improving the health care services, and the collection and disposal of garbage.

Other members appointed to the committee are: Northern Long Island MP Philip Smith, St John's MP Peter Bethel, Mayaguana MP Vernon Symonette and FNM Shadow Minister of Health Pierre Dupuch, MP for Shirlea.

Health Minister Livingstone Coakley moved for the appointment of the committee yesterday afternoon announcing that the government intends to embark on an anti-litter programme next year and will intensify its garbage collection. The minister was not appointed to the committee.

Also speaking on the government-sponsored motion were Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes, Mr Dupuch, Mr Smith and Grants Town MP Bradley Roberts, who briefly refuted a statement by Mr Dupuch.

Mr Smith said that House members should take less time debating the creation of a select committee and debate the findings of such a committee instead.

He also lashed out at those who litter saying that they should be told "at the risk of physical violence" that they have no right to "dirty my home."

Taking issue with Mr Dupuch's statement yesterday in the House that the government leased a portion of the old Bilney Lane clinic building to his political opponent in Shirlea, Grants Town MP Bradley Roberts said he personally told Mr Dupuch that it was leased to the Shirlea Community Development Association.

Mr Roberts, who was Mr Dupuch's opponent in Shirlea during the 1982 general elections, said the government agreed to lease to the association which is planning to build a day-care centre for two year olds and under in Shirlea.

Accusing Mr Dupuch of misleading the House, Mr Roberts said that there were five day care centres in the area but none caters to children under two years of age.

Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes called for the disestablishment of the Princess Margaret Hospital from the Ministry of Health saying the government had the same, old, colonial-style of administration.

He said that ordinary drugs should always be available at

the hospital and that if the health system was to work, there must be communication between the government and the people responsible for the delivery of health care.

"There must be some reliable communication between the professionals and the government," he said.

He said the previous United Bahamian Party government did a lot of bad things but the one good thing they did was to disestablish some government departments.

Mr Foulkes also spoke of the problem of litter and what he termed the "terrible condition" of Bay Street.

He said that he could not understand the mentality of persons who would throw litter on a clean lawn.

Oh pollution in Grand Bahama, he said he hoped the government would get some professional advice on the dangers of pollution caused by the presence of three industrial plants - BORCO, Syntex and Bahamas Cement.

"It would be a tragedy of the greatest magnitude if we allowed industries to ruin the environment," Mr Foulkes said.

Winding up, Mr Coakley said that both he and the previous Minister of Health had looked critically at decentralization and disestablishment of the hospital.

MINISTRY INAUGURATES NATIONAL ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Nov 82 pp 1, 9

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

HEALTH MINISTER Livingstone Coakley told House of Assembly members today that his ministry's objective in 1983 is to collect garbage twice a week and implement a national anti-litter programme.

Mr Coakley said his ministry will be in a position to show it has the will to improve the environment and to make an announcement in advance what its programme is when the collections are to be made.

The Minister's remarks came as he moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider the expansion and importation of health care services and the collection and disposal of garbage in the Bahamas.

He said the ministry has plans for more clinics to be established in the Bahamas and he will indicate what will be done about them when he speaks during the upcoming budget debate.

He said the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport will also be improved to help alleviate some of the leading causes of death, including high blood pressure diseases, cancer and pre-natal deaths.

For the first time in the Family Islands, he said, there is a greater distribution of medical officers with the

implementation of the Government-sponsored dental care programme, which is done in circuits in the central, southern and northern Bahamas.

He said there is a greater distribution of trained nurses in the country and that greater emphasis will be placed on the training of community nurses.

Through the help of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Mr Coakley told the House, many steps were taken to improve the administration of the hospital.

He said a central planning unit and manpower development programmes have been established and PAHO has done a tremendous job in finding qualified manpower and assisting the Bahamas in training them.

Pointing out that there must be an overall awareness of the need for the public to be aware of littering the country, he said the ministry will focus on health education and urged the formation of voluntary community health organizations.

He said his ministry will continue to spend millions of dollars on its cleaning up programme, but unless the people, and organizations are aware, the ministry will not achieve what it hopes to achieve for the country.

The Minister also called for a change of attitude in the

hospital saying that they are being paid an alarming sum in personal emoluments from the total allocation of funds for the hospital.

He said hospital staffers are being paid 33 per cent in personal emoluments of the sum allocated to the hospital, and have been consistently paid over 30 per cent over the last several years.

"What is perhaps needed," the Minister said, "is better management."

He said the professionals at the hospital cannot say a proper allocation of funds is not being made to the institution to administrate the affairs of the hospital.

"We expect a degree of professionalism from the staff of the hospital in an increase of the services they offer," he said.

But he said that the greatest problem his ministry faces, is management of the environment, and stressed that "we have got to find a way to improve the environment."

He told of people holding cook-outs at public grounds and not returning to clean up, leaving the work for Ministry of Health workers.

"Our objectives is twice a week garbage collection in 1983 with the type of equipment we have," he said, adding that another objective is to start a national anti-litter programme.

HEALTH OFFICIAL DENIES MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Oct 82 p C 1

[Text] "There is no meningitis epidemic," specified Dr Maximiliano Montero, secretary of the Metropolitan Ministry of Health, at a press conference yesterday in which he discussed the progress of the present immunization program. The six chief physicians of the region's health service accompanied Dr Montero in the discussion with the journalists.

At this time he stated that the vaccination program had gone faster than expected. Again he said that the present program is a preventive one which is routinely provided by the health department.

The ministry secretary categorically denied that there was an epidemic, and this was corroborated by the chief physicians. He also said that the immunization program was part of an epidemic prevention plan. It was not cut back in October as had been thought when the number of cases stabilized. He said that by 27 October there had been 76 fatalities--16 percent of those who had contracted the illness.

The Campaign

The six chief physicians of the region's metropolitan health service described the work that was being done through doctors' offices, rural clinics and mobile units. Vaccinations planned for the first 4 days had gone over the mark. An overall 41.9 percent of the goal had been reached, and in some areas such as in the north they had reached 54.4 percent of the goal with 145,697 persons vaccinated.

Statistical data from the regional ministerial secretariat indicates that a majority of those vaccinated are between the ages of 6 and 14, and the biggest percentage, 59.1 percent, are between 6 and 23 months. In the northern area 75 percent of the population in that age group has been immunized. Dr Montero confirmed that the program will be completed ahead of schedule in approximately 10 to 14 days. "The schedule has been accelerated," he said, and added that to accomplish this they are counting on assistance from health service personnel and the authorities such as the mayors.

In discussing the methods used, they said that the "jet injector" process can vaccinate from 400 to 600 persons per hour, even going as high as 1,000. Five hundred can be vaccinated per hour using a syringe, and an experienced nurse can do up to 800.

COLOMBIA

RABID ENCEPHALITIS CAUSES DEATH

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Oct 82 pp 1-A, 16-B

[Article by Martin Alonso Parra: "Death of Psychologist in Pereira"]

[Text] Pereira, 21 October--A Belgian psychologist has died of rabid encephalitis. She and her 2-year-old son, Federico, and several neighbors were bitten 45 days ago by her own dog--the same dog that escaped from the Association for the Protection of Animals and then injured 6 other persons.

This death, the first to occur in Risaralda from a human rabid epidemic, took place 24 hours after the declaration of a state of health emergency by the authorities in the department. This was done because of a rabid epidemic diagnosed as such by the ICA [Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute] and the Branch Health Service after examining 4 dogs that had bitten more than 30 persons.

Francine Merk, a native of Brussels and a professor at the University of Quindio, had entered the Social Security clinic of Pereira on Monday, 11 October, with apparent rabid symptoms. The doctors later diagnosed that this indeed was a case of human rabid encephalitis, which results from the bite of a rabid dog. Once a person is thus afflicted, the disease becomes irreversible and causes death.

The efforts of a group of doctors in Risaralda, who were joined by Gabriel Toro Gonzalez, a neuropathologist and official of the National Institute of Health, with headquarters in Bogota, failed to save the life of the unfortunate professor, who died at 2100 hours on Wednesday.

Unequal Struggle

Many friends and relatives of the victim, including her husband, psychologist Carlos Escobar Belalcazar, professor at the Technological University of Pereira, as well as the group of doctors who treated her, had hoped that the drugs that were administered--doses of gamma globulin--to increase her system's defenses would win the unequal struggle against the fateful virus that caused her death 24 hours after she went into a coma.

Health Emergency

The Social Security doctors told EL TIEMPO that the death of psychologist Francine Merk constitutes the first case of human rabies in Risaralda. It occurred precisely 24 hours after the declaration of the health emergency, upon confirmation by the Branch Health Service and the ICA in Manizales of the existence of a canine rabies epidemic in the towns of Pereira, Dosquebradas, La Virginia, and Santa Rosa.

The dog vaccination campaign that was begun in Risaralda several months ago was intensified in recent days, immediately after the rabies outbreaks, said Dr Julian Velez, chief of the technical section of the Branch Health Service, who commented that a total of 40,000 dogs have been vaccinated throughout the department.

Vigilance

A special program of health vigilance has made it possible to identify and to keep under strict observation 10 persons who were bitten by rabid dogs. They were immediately administered a "CRL" anti-rabies vaccine. Dr Julian Velez appealed to all those who have been bitten by these animals to go immediately to health centers, where they will be given emergency treatment.

About a hundred street dogs are being observed by veterinarians of the Branch Health Service and the Association for the Protection of Animals, following numerous round-ups in the towns of Pereira, La Virginia, Santa Rosa, and Dosquebradas.

Nelson Cortes, a zootechnician and veterinarian and president of the Association for the Protection of Animals, told EL TIEMPO that the agency lacks sufficient technicians and surgeons to treat the increased number of animals under its care, in this case 55 dogs that are undergoing special observation.

8255

CSO: 3248/2024

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--The government of Cundinamarca, through the secretariats of Agriculture and Health, with the cooperation of the ICA [Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute], began an extensive vaccination campaign in order to prevent equine encephalitis and to prevent those who care for afflicted animals from contracting the disease. Jesus Hernando Lozano Diaz, chief of Agriculture, stated that, faced with the danger that this disease might attack the animal population, the government is implementing an important vaccination campaign in some areas of the department, deeming that the virus is one of the most dangerous to public health, owing to the nature of its transmissibility to humans. In developing the plan, vaccine viruses are being made in areas of Arbelaez, Medina, and Pacho, among other towns. This past Saturday the equine population of La Pena was vaccinated. Vergara is preparing to do the same soon. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Oct 82 p 2] 8255

CSO: 5400/2023

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ONCHOCERCIASIS STATISTICS--Studies just completed allow us to estimate the number of our people who have been exposed to the risk of "river blindness" at 132,000. Of this total number, 30,000 have the disease and 1,400 are blind. This was revealed at a press conference held last Friday at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The disease creates an important problem for the country. The people who live in the Corubal and Geba river basins burn up with this type of malarial fever, and this disease makes it even harder for these migratory people to overcome hunger. For another thing, national production is decreased because an important area, fertile and suitable for agriculture, then remains uncultivated. As the Ministry of Health and Social Services has made well known, "we are one of the 32 poorest countries of the world, largely depending on foreign aid. Still that does not allow us just to fold our hands in the face of a situation which threatens the health of the Guinean people." For this reason then, the fourth conference which will take place beginning on 16 November 1982 in Bissau is very important. This will be a conference of the health ministers from Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone which must approve a plan proposed by the World Health Organization for persuading and getting commitments from potential financial backers for the struggle against onchocerciasis. [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 20 Oct 82 p 80] 9972

CSO: 5400/46

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER ALERT--Georgetown, Guyana, Friday, (CANA)--Three deaths in the Guyana-Brazil border area accompanied by symptoms of yellow fever have led local health authorities to launch a public awareness programme to encourage persons travelling to that region to obtain immunisation vaccinations for their own safety. The local media yesterday reported the deaths of two gold miners in the border area and of another person at Monkey Mountain in the same southern Rupununi region. Chief medical officer Walter Chin said however, that health authorities had no official confirmation of an outbreak of yellow fever in the region, either from local sources or from the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CEC). He explained that as a precautionary measure supplies of yellow fever vaccine had been sent to major population centres in the Rupununi region for residents. Immigration authorities in the area, civil aviation and port health authorities have also been alerted to the possibilities of yellow fever contamination in the hinterland.
[Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Nov 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/7517

LEPROSY TREATMENT IN VIENTIANE HOSPITAL DESCRIBED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 8 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Phongthachit Savatdiphon: "Our First Visit to the Hospital for Skin Diseases"]

[Text] The hospital for skin diseases is subordinate to the Ministry of Public Health. It is located in the Vientiane Capital municipal area. Today we had an opportunity to visit the hospital, and as soon as we entered the hospital which is not very large what caught our attention was seeing patients sitting and waiting for their examination. A doctor permitted me to see Dr Souphanthavong Langsi, the chief responsible for the hospital, who explained to us that this hospital has been examining and treating patients since 1965. It consists of 2 buildings. One is for examination and leprosy treatment and has 20 beds. The second building is for general skin disease examination and for dispensing medicine; when the medicine is finished the patients are scheduled to come back for further examinations and medicine until they are well again. Patients with serious leprosy must stay in the hospital for their follow-up treatment for a period of time, then take medicine at home until they are scheduled to come back for more examinations and medicine until they are well again. He told us that treatment for leprosy is not as easy as it is for other diseases. There are two types of leprosy. The less serious type is not contagious; the patient must be examined and must take medicine regularly for 4 years in order to be well again.

The serious type of leprosy is contagious; a patient must be examined and must take medicine regularly for 6-10 years in order to become well again.

Effective medicines used at the present time and which are easy to administer are (DDS Lampensiba). The adult dosage is 1/2 to 1 tablet daily, and the children's dosage is 1/4 to 1/2 tablet, depending on the patient's weight. There are many different kinds of vitamin supplements to take care of their health, to prevent disease in wounds and all over the body, and also to take care of their eating habits (supplemental use). Since the time the hospital was opened up to 1980 there have been 1,274 suspected and proven leprosy patients who came for examination, treatment, and for medication. Those who have regular examinations and who take their medicine regularly can really get well. Compared with 1981, there were 158 patients who came for examinations and treatment, including 38 new patients who came to be examined.

In the first six months of 1982, 313 leprosy patients came for examination and treatment, including 35 new ones. Meanwhile, for the general skin disease examinations and medicine distribution sections, in 1981 there were over 7070 people who used the services. In the first six months of 1982 there were 3205 people who used the services. Dr Souphan took us to see leprosy patients who were being treated. They freely admitted that under the old regime their whole families had been banished to live in the jungle pitifully and with no food. They would have been left to die just like that.

Rhia, 42 years old from Ban Na Bao, Na Bao Canton, Paksan District, Vientiane Province, said that he worked for the old regime until he became too weak. When they suspected that he had leprosy they chased his family to live in the jungle until the new regime arrived. He returned for examination and treatment where he is now. [His] last 5-6 years of treatment have been very good and without any charge. He was extremely well taken care of by revolutionary doctors and the new regime. Dr Souphan added that treating of patients is done in many ways. An important one is to find ways for them to be creative by doing like work such as weaving, preparing vegetable beds, etc. in order to train and rejuvenate disabled parts of the body, make them forget their illness, etc., and to relieve them of their pain.

On the path of progress for all of the public health skin disease sections there is something important that is being expanded widely into production bases throughout the nation. It is to search for the sources of the diseases and then get rid of them gradually until they are completely gone. This will make everyone healthy and strong in order to take part in maintaining peace and happiness, national defense, and national construction. They will be the new socialist man.

9884

CSO: 5400/4305

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA INOCULATION CAMPAIGN--At least 7,000 persons have been inoculated [as published] against Cholera in the Mano River area since the No Way Camp landslide incident on October 6. A release from the Bong Mining Company's Monrovia office gave a breakdown of those vaccinated as follows: Mano River Hospital (Out Patient department) 700 persons; Upper Camp Clinic, 531; Kongo Public School, 1,716 and No Way Camp, 2,924. The release said the Medical Director of the hospital at the National Iron Ore Company in Mano River, Dr. A. V. Maningo, has already written to BMC's management thanking it for more than 5,000 Cholera Vaccines donated to the hospital after the landslide. "I appreciate your concern and personal, prompt and voluntary response to our distress and needs", the release quoted Dr. Maningo as have said in his letter. [Text] [Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 12 Nov 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/75

BRIEFS

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN NKHOTAKOTA--Farmers in Nkhotakota District should bring their children to underfives clinic for medical attention, the District Party Chairman here, Mr D.T.A. Kampanje Banda urged the people. Addressing a public meeting at Jeja in Chief Kanyenda's area, Mr Kampanje Banda noted that measles disease which was attacking a number of children around the area could be minimised if children were medically checked regularly. Village sanitation, he said, was vital for the community. He then urged both Party and traditional leaders to work together in order to ensure that people in the villages live happier and healthier lives. The people around Katimbila reported to health officials that there was an outbreak of measles in the area, saying that a number of children had been affected by the disease. The people, therefore, requested health officials to introduce a mobile health clinic in order to minimise the disease in the area.--MANA [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 10 Nov 82 p 3]

CHOLERA CAUSES 28 DEATHS--A cholera outbreak has caused 28 deaths in Zambia's northern Luapula Province, bordering Zaire, the Zambia News Agency reported today. It quoted a medical team as saying a further 266 cases had been treated. Road blocks have been erected to prevent the outbreak spreading from Luapula where more than 50 people died in a cholera epidemic earlier this year.--Reuter [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 18 Nov 82 p 1]

POLIO CAMPAIGN ENDS--KASUNGU, Sunday--THE stop polio campaign launched in Kasungu in August last year will be completed by the end of this year if all goes according to plan, an official at Kasungu District Hospital has said. Speaking to MANA in an interview, the official said that the third and last dose inoculation which is part of the campaign was already underway in the district. He added that the campaign has already covered the areas of Sub-Chief Kawamba and Chief Santhe and was now in the area of Chief Kapeluka. "The third part would have covered all the areas by now but the setback was that it was suspended for about four weeks due to transport problems," the official said adding: "But now if all goes well as planned the campaign should be completed by the end of this year or even earlier than that." The official also pointed out that the second dose inoculation part of the campaign somehow delayed because mothers were usually given short notice. But now the problem had been rectified and that was why the campaign's third part was running at a fast pace with encouraging results, he said. [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 8 Nov 82 p 5]

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASES--Twelve cases of cholera have been confirmed in Sabah during the past week. This brings the total number of cases in the state to 357 with 12 deaths since the outbreak of the disease last April. The Sabah Medical Center director, Dr (Emisial Chan), says all the new cases are from the Tawan District. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Nov 82 BK]

SARAWAK CHOLERA INFECTED AREAS--Eight of the 11 cholera infected districts in Sarawak have been declared free of the disease. The districts are: Sarikei and Jalau in the 6th division; Oya, Dalat, Sibu and Mukah in the 3d division; Lawas in the 5th division and Lundu in the 1st division. The areas still infected are: Binatang in the 6th division; Limbang in the 5th division and Simunjan in the 1st division. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 4 Nov 82 BK]

CSO: 5400/4338

MEXICO

BRIEFS

DIARRHEA-CAUSED DEATHS--More than 80,000 persons die each year in Mexico from diarrhea. Most are children and the elderly, whose deaths could have been prevented if hygienic and proper measures had been observed. Dr Maria Elena Anzures, chief of the Gastroenterology Department of the General Hospital of Mexico, of the SSA [Secretariat of Health and Assistance], reported that digestive system ailments are the second highest cause of the country's sick rate and mortality rate. The highest ranking cause pertains to infectious diseases of the respiratory system. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 18-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2022

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

ANTIMALARIA CAMPAIGN--To decrease the incidence of infant deaths caused by malaria lately in the city of Beira, a spraying campaign was recently initiated. This campaign started in the 16th District where a crew of 200 preventive medicine workers is spraying houses and other sites. This campaign embraces all districts of the city. It is being supervised by preventive medicine technical personnel from the national headquarters and their counterparts from the local branch who are closely following the work's progress. Spraying is being done with a 75-percent solution of dissolved DDT powder. As sources in the area have revealed to our reporter, "the support of political organizations of the district and participation by the people have been sufficiently effective to make our campaign successful." Meanwhile our source revealed that similar campaign during the first 3 months of this year was successful in reducing the infant mortality rate as well as the anopheles mosquito population (they are the carriers of malaria). "It is hoped that the infant mortality rate this year will be lower than last year," he added. [Beira DIARIO DEMOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 13 Oct 82 p 2] 9972

CSO: 5400/44

BRIEFS

MORE JAUNDICE CASES REPORTED--Even after the onset of winter fifty to seventy patients suffering from jaundice daily come to outpatient ward of ayurvedic hospital at Naradevi in Kathmandu. According to the hospital, at present thirty jaundice patients are undergoing treatment there and the number is likely to increase after Tihar festival. The increased incidence of the disease even in winter is attributed mainly to adulterated food. The highest number of jaundice patients seeking treatment at the hospital are from Dhading and a few patients are from Dang, Chitwan and Janakpur. Mostly students and employees who reside at lodges and take meals at hotels and restaurants are found to have contracted the disease. The 50-bed hospital handled 2542 jaundice cases over the last four months, it is learnt. [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 15 Nov 82 pp 1, 4]

CSO: 5400/4336

BAN ON IMPORT OF HARMFUL PESTICIDES URGED

Karachi DAWN in English 17 Nov 82 p 10

[Text]

The Sind Health Secretary, Mr Saiyed Ahmed Siddiqui, yesterday called for banning the import of pesticides already banned in the West because of their harmful effects on human beings.

He was inaugurating the 3-day session of the course in "Multi Level National Training on the Safe Use of Pesticides" at the JPMC. The three-day course sponsored by the Directorate of Malaria Control and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in co-operation with the WHO, is being participated by over 50 delegates from various government departments and agencies dealing in pesticides in Sind province.

Mr Siddiqui said the subject was of vital importance and must be included in the curricula of veterinary, agriculture and medical colleges.

It was ironic that chemicals used to increase food production and

provide protection to human beings against insects should cause harmful effects on human beings. "Ignorance and negligence are the main factors for this state of affairs," he observed.

The Provincial Health Secretary advocated the need for keeping a vigil and timely information on safety measures and emergency medical treatment in such cases.

He said since large scale use of pesticides in agriculture is increasing at a fast pace, it is essential that a detailed knowledge of the toxicity and its prevention and cure be a part of the major training.

Earlier, Dr S.M. Mujtaba, Director, Malaria Control, explaining the objectives of the training programme and workshop hoped that it will be a continuing exercise.

Dr J. F. Copplestone, a WHO Toxicologist, also spoke and demonstrated with slides the harmful effects of pesticides.

CSO: 5400/4335

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLAN LAUNCHED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 82 p 5

[Text]

Prof. Dr. Basharat Jazbi, President's Adviser on Health and Social Welfare, assured the doctors in Lahore on Sunday that the new career structure to be announced for them would come upto their expectations.

He was speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of the Fifteenth Biennial All Pakistan Medical Conference.

The Adviser said that the present Government was making concrete efforts to solve the genuine problems of the medical profession and the President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was taking keen interest in the matter.

Dr. Jazbi said that although Pakistan was a developing country with limited resources yet it had made significant progress in the medical profession. Immediately after the creation of Pakistan, he said, the total number of qualified doctors in the country was only 1,340 while the number of nurses was only 88. The number of hospital beds available at that time was negligible.

However, he said, at present, we have 24,000 qualified doctors and 9,000 nurses while the number of hospital beds had risen to about 47,000.

This, he said, was by no means a meagre achievement. But still the country is short of the medical personnel and constant efforts are being made to overcome this shortage.

The President's Adviser said that a comprehensive health scheme had been launched by the Government recently to provide a better medical cover to the masses and to create more job opportunities for the doctors.

Earlier, two prominent doctors from India, participating in the conference, paid tributes to President General Zia-ul-Haq for his efforts to promote Islamic Tib and also for the steps against quackery. The Indian doctors also appreciated the development of the medical profession in this country.—APP.

CSO: 5400/4339

HEALTH EDUCATION INSTITUTE FOR SIND PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Nov 82 p 5

[Text]

HYDERABAD, Nov 21: Sind Government has decided to set up a Health Institute in the province to impart health education to the people about various diseases, their prevention and treatment.

This was disclosed by Sind Health Minister, Syed Ahad Yusuf, while speaking at the "Scientific Seminar" held on "Tuberculosis and Leprosy" organised jointly by the Tharparkar District Council T.B. Association and Leprosy Control Centre at Bhitai Hall Mirpurkhas, recently.

The Minister said that Sind Government attached great importance to medical facilities particularly in the rural areas and called upon the well-to-do persons to join hands with the Government and share its efforts in serving the suffering humanity by expanding medical facilities. He advised the doctors to realise their responsibilities and serve the patients with all possible devotion and dedication.

Earlier, Dr. R. Pfau, Adviser to the Government of Pakistan in Azad Kashmir on Leprosy, threw light on the disease and explained its causes and treatment with the help of cinema slides. She was also shown three Leprosy patients who had been cured by timely treatment of Mirpurkhas Leprosy Control Centre. She said that leprosy was a curable disease and not a curse of God as believed by some people.

Dr. Muhammad Rafique, President Sind T.B. Association, also spoke on the occasion and referred to the incidence of T.B. particularly in Sind and its control by various

methods. Dr. H.M.A. Drago, President Tharparkar District Leprosy Control Society, and Mr. Zia-ul-Islam Deputy Commissioner, Tharparkar, also spoke on the occasion.

Federal Councillor Seth Herchand Rai presented 'Ajrak' to the chief guest. Fateha Khawani was also held for an active T.B. Association member Dr. Hizbullah Ahmedani who expired two months back.

Brisk preparations are afoot for the celebration of the three-day annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai at Bhitshah commencing from 14th Safar 1403. A meeting held here the other day under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Syed Roshan Zameer decided that there will be only one "Latif Award" which will be awarded to an artiste after considering his overall performance throughout the year 1982 by a 5-member Special Committee appointed for this purpose.

An agricultural-cum-industrial exhibition will also be held to apprise the general public with the latest development in the field of agriculture and industry.

Various nation building and semi-government departments and autonomous bodies will set up their stalls at the exhibition.

The DMLA, Hyderabad, during his recent visit of Hyderabad city expressed his dissatisfaction over the hygienic and sanitary conditions of this historical city. The DMLA visited Latifabad Unit 11 and Market area and directed HMC staff to organise themselves to provide best possible services to the people. The DMLA directed that

"immediate steps should be taken by HMC and DC Hyderabad to shift the cattle colony from the city to a suitable location outside, fly proofing of all the meat markets should be carried out on priority basis and cement dustbins should be constructed at suitable places on all major roads." He also directed that "arrangements should be made to place small dustbins in front of the shops and on the main poles along major roads and permanent sanitation staff should be placed in market area to remove garbage three-four times a day to avoid unhygienic conditions." He further emphasized that "HMC should ensure that the cleanliness of the main shopping centre should be done during the early hours of the morning and the garbage from the dustbins be removed latest by 1 p.m. daily."

CSO: 5400/4335

PRACTICING PERMITS FOR UNREGISTERED DOCTORS DEMANDED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Nov. 21: The Pakistan Medical Practitioners Association has called upon the government not to enforce the "Medical and Dental Ordinance, 1982" till permits were issued to more than 40,000 un-registered Doctors who were engaged in clinical practice for the last 30 years.

Addressing a Press Conference here today, Dr. Hee Jehangir Pervez, President of the Association, said non-issuance of permits would create two major problems—40,000 unregistered doctors would be rendered jobless which would pose economic crisis for about 4 lakh persons and secondly 50 million people who depend on these Doctors would be deprived of medical facilities. Dr. Jehangir refuted the claim of the Federal Health Ministry that shortage of Doctors in the country had been overcome. He said the actual position was that the country still needed 85,000 more Doctors to meet the health need of people.

The Association, the PMA chief said he had submitted the list of its members with the provincial Health Department and under allopathic rules the Health Minister should have issued them permit for continuing clinical practice but regretted that this was not done.

Instead, he said, efforts were being made by PMA to declare the practice of unregistered medical practitioners "illegal".

He demanded that immediate orders be issued for registration of unregistered practitioners having required qualifications and the Association be given representation in the screening boards set up by the government. He said that China, America and India had allowed such practitioners to continue their clinical practice and even in Pakistan they were doing practice for the last 30 years but now they were being asked not to use the name "doctor".

He said at present more than 40,000 unregistered Doctors are doing practice and those who have long experience and have studied medical subjects such as anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, medicine and minor surgery should not be called as "quacks". However, he said, the practice of such practitioners, who have just entered the field and have no practical experience, be declared "illegal".

Dr. Pervez suggested that comprehensive but short refresher courses be organised for unregistered Doctors at tehsil and district levels without putting any burden on the national exchequer.

He appealed the President to give an audience to a delegation of the Association to apprise him of the factual position.

CSO: 5400/4335

MEDICAL AND DENTAL DEGREES ORDINANCE PROMULGATED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 20 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Nov. 19: The President has promulgated the Medical and Dental Degrees Ordinance, 1982, prohibiting unauthorized grant of degrees, diplomas, licenses, certificates and other documents.

The following is the text of the ordinance:

Ordinance No. XXVI of 1982

An ordinance to repeal and, with certain modifications, re-enact the Medical Degrees Act, 1916.

Whereas it is expedient to repeal and, with certain modifications, re-enact the Medical Degrees Act, 1916 (VII of 1916):

And whereas the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the proclamation of the fifth day of July, 1977, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following ordinance:-

1. SHORT TITLE, EXTENT AND COMMENCEMENT. (1) This ordinance may be called

Medical and Dental Degrees Ordinance, 1982.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions:- In this ordinance, "scientific medical and dental system" means the scientific methods of allopathic medicine, obstetrics, surgery and dentistry but does not include the homoeopathic Ayurvedic or Unani system of medicine.

3. RIGHT TO CONFER DEGREES, ETC:- The right of conferring, granting or issuing in Pakistan degrees, diplomas, licences, certificates, or other documents stating or implying that the holder, grantee or recipient thereof is qualified to practice scientific medical and dental system shall be exercisable only by the authorities specified in the schedule and by such other authority as the Federal Government or a Provincial Government may, by notifications in the official gazette and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit to impose, authorise in this behalf.

4. PROHIBITION OF UN-AUTHORISED CONFERMENT OF DEGREES, ETC:- Save as provided by section 3, no person in Pakistan shall confer, grant or issue any degree, diploma, licence, certificate or other document stating or implying that the holder, grantee or recipient is qualified to practise scientific medical and dental system.

5. CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 4:- Whoever contravenes the provisions of Section 4 shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year or more than five years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees; and, if the person so contravening is an association, every member of such association who knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the contravention shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year or more than five years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

6. PENALTY FOR FALSELY ASSUMING OR USING MEDICAL AND DENTAL TITLES: Whoever voluntarily and falsely assumes or uses any title or description or any addition to his name implying that he holds a degree, diploma, licence or certificate conferred, granted or issued by any authority referred to in Section 3 or recognised by the Medical and Dental Council of Pakistan or uses any words to give a false impression that he was qualified to practise scientific medical and dental system shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year or more than five

years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to the use by any person of any title, description or addition which he uses by virtue of any degree, diploma, lincece or certificate conferred upon him or granted or issued to him in any subject other than medicine.

7. COGNIZANCE OF OFFENCES: No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this ordinance except upon a complain made by the Secretary of the Medical and Dental Council or any person authorised by the secretary and notified in the official gazette.

8. JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATE: No court inferior to that of a magistrate of the first class shall try an offence punishable under this ordinance.

9. OFFENCES TO BE FAILABLE: Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), all offences punishable under this ordinance shall be bailable.

10. Repeal-The Medical Degrees Act, 1916 (VII of 1916), is hereby repealed.

Schedule (see section 3)

1. Every University in Pakistan established by act of the federal or provincial legislature.

11. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan.--APP

CSO: 5400/4339

BRIEFS

PRIVATE HEALTH CENTERS--GUJRANWALA, Nov 19--Dr. Nasiruddin Jomezai, Federal Health Minister, has said the Government will give loans to those who will set up health centres in rural areas. He said this during his visit to the Gujranwala District Hospital and Jinnah Memorial Hospital to assess the medical facilities being available to the people of the area. Gujranwala is a thickly-populated city having 8.5 lakh inhabitants. The medical facilities available do not meet the needs of the local population. [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 82 p 5]

MEDICAL ACADEMY PLANNED--MULTAN, Nov. 22--A medical academy would be set up in Islamabad in the next year, the Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nasiruddin Jomezai said here today. Talking to newsmen at the airport on arrival on a three-day visit to Multan and Muzaf-fargarh Districts, the Minister said that the details of the academy were being worked out. To be called Pakistan Medical Academy, it would work on the pattern of the Civil Service Academy to train fresh medical graduates and arrange three-month long refresher course for the in-service doctors. The doctors, he said, would be trained in handling of the accounts and the administrative matters in service. Replying to a question, he said the provisions of the law banning quackery would equally apply to homeopaths and Unani Tabibs. Only those holding degrees recognised by their respective boards would be allowed practice, he added. [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 82 p 10]

CSO: 5400/4335

ARTICLE NOTES RESULTS IN CONTROLLING ENDEMIC DISEASES

Beijing JIANKANG BAO in Chinese 7 Oct 82 p 2

[Article by Zhao Tieli [6392 6993 0500] and Liu Yongqing [0941 3057 1987]]

[Text] Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Congress, there has been an obvious achievement in the work of controlling endemic diseases in China. The leadership of the work has been further strengthened everywhere and the various control measures have continued to be carried out to cure a large number of victims. These accomplishments form a powerful impetus for the construction of two civilizations in the regions with endemic diseases.

Since the Third Plenary Session Congress, the party committees and governments of various ranks in the affected regions reinforced their guidance in the work of controlling endemic diseases and the administrative agencies. In 17 provinces, cities, and autonomous regions, 46 leaders of the party have visited patients of the affected regions 68 times to seek to understand the work of controlling endemic diseases, to help resolve problems of the grass-roots level, and to develop the control work still further. In these 3 years, there has been obvious progress in the work of controlling endemic goiter. The number of counties where iodization of table salt has been extended has increased from 513 of 1978 to 687, amounting to 80 percent of counties affected by endemic goiter and the number of people using iodized salt has increased from 110 million to 169 million, amounting to 95 percent of the population of the regions affected by endemic goiter. Those who are cured of the disease have numbered 12 million. Originally, the three provinces of Shaanxi, Heilongjiang, and Tianjin had many victims of this disease. After several years of struggle, this disease has been basically controlled in these areas.

Through large-scale surveys to clarify the regions of prevalence of endemic fluorine poisoning, various measures have been adopted by these regions to develop the work of improving the water to prevent the disease. According to statistics of 12 provinces, cities, and autonomous regions, the water of more than 10,000 places has been changed to enable more than 190 million persons to drink water of a proper sanitary standard so that there are no more new victims of this disease.

Due to strict implementation of comprehensive prevention and control measures, the incidence and the mortality rate of Keshan disease have dropped steadily in

the past decade. Now there are 65 affected counties where the state's basic control standard has been reached. With respect to Kaschin-Beck's disease [Iron rickets], a comprehensive prevention and control measure, concentrating mainly on animal immunization, has been basically formulated. Large-scale epidemics of Brucellosis have been prevented and 67 percent of the affected regions have reached the basic standard of control.

At present, the appearance of regions of China affected by endemic diseases is in the process of changing. In those places where the damage from these diseases is being removed, the masses have become stronger physically, their productivity is rising continuously, and their livelihood is steadily being improved. They deeply appreciate the concern of the party and the government for their health.

6248

CSO: 5400/4110

BRIEFS

QUEZON PROVINCE MEASLES OUTBREAK--Lucena City--At least 17 children were confirmed to have died in an outbreak of measles in Calutcot, an island barangay in Burdeos town off the coast of Quezon province. But provincial health officer, Dr. Hilarion Tan, said the disease is now under control. The disease, characterized by small red spots on the skin and high fever, strikes most frequently in childhood. Dr. Tan said the outbreak occurred from September to the first week of November on Calutcot island. The victims ranged in age from five months to five years. Dr. Tan said a medical team composed of three doctors has been sent to the island. Barangay Calutcot, with a population of some 500, is about 15 hours by land and sea travel from this city. Calutcot barangay captain Alfredo Seminiano identified the dead as Roberto Caballero, five months old; Gonzalo Caballero Jr., 5; Charie de los Santos, one year; Aldrin Dalay, 4; Emmanuel Baria, 4, Banjo Velasco, 3, C. de los Santos, 2; Benely Cielo, one year; Renalyn Rios, 2; Pacifico Reazon Jr, 7 months, Valentin twins; Lendof Cielo, 5; Ritchel Lara, one year; Maricel Aquino, 2, Dyna de Luna, 2; and Percival de Luna, 3. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Nov 82 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 5400/4332

MALARIA CONTROL UNIT EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTIES

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 11 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Donny Naumalo]

[Text]

THIS YEAR'S drought spell has been a blessing in disguise for the Malaria Control Unit in Manzini.

Fortunately, because of the late start in rains this year, there have been no reports of any malaria outbreak so far, said a spokesman for the unit.

He stated that had there been any outbreak, the transport problems would have proved a major setback. Most of the unit's vehicles, he said, were at the Central Transport Administration (CTA) for repairs.

The spokesman said most of these cars have been there for a long time. He said the unit has written several letters to the Ministry of Health Headquarters on this issue but nothing has been done.

The spokesman stated that if rain had come earlier as usual, and the malaria epidemic had occurred, the unit's personnel would have watched helplessly as people died in countless numbers.

"The situation is very serious now that the rains are

beginning to fall. With our transport not here many people will die should the disease break out if no solution is found," he said.

He pointed out that the only two vehicles available at the moment are not strong enough to tackle the dirt roads in the countryside as the unit is responsible for controlling the whole country.

He said: "These two cars are not powerful enough to carry the equipment when we have to spray the countryside."

He was supported by the transport office in the ministry's headquarters in Mbabane, Mr. Donald Luhlanga.

He said: "The unit has written to us but there is also nothing we can do since they have pointed out that the vehicles at CTA."

Mr. Luhlanga said there were more than 40 health vehicles still undergoing mechanical repairs.

He stated that CTA has posed problems for the

ministry. "When one goes to CTA to claim the vehicles, he is told some parts have been stolen and that those parts are being ordered at present."

"The ministry has more than 40 cars still undergoing mechanical repairs at CTA and we are not sure when they will be given back to us," he alleged.

He said the number of the cars would increase at CTA if its management could not find a solution to the "theft."

"Even our motorcycles are also being repaired at CTA and this is slowing the work of the ministry," he said.

He pointed out that the cycles are used to inspect health conditions of groceries and butcheries. "This means that our inspection work is being slowed down because many areas in the remote areas of the country are not being inspected," he said.

The general transport manager for CTA was not available for comment but his deputy dismissed all these allegations as unfounded.

BRIEFS

CHOLERA INCIDENCE, DEATHS--Five persons have died as a result of cholera which broke out in the villages of Kiwira and Isaka in Rungwe District. Three of these persons died in the hospital in Igogwe and two died in the hospital in Tukuyu. Up until the day before yesterday two patients continued to receive treatment in the hospital in Igogwe and in the village of Kiwira. The physicians of this hospital said that the condition of these patients continues to be good. Since this disease broke out in Rungwe District 2 weeks ago, a total of 32 persons were treated in the villages of Isaka, Kiwira and in the hospital in Igogwe. Fourteen persons have died and another 46 have been treated as a result of the recrudescence of cholera in some villages on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Rukwa Region, it was made known in the city of Sumbawanga yesterday. The regional health officer, John Maro, stated that these deaths occurred in the 1 week period 22-29 October. At this time, the headquarters of the national bus company [KAMATA] has been placed under quarantine in the city of Dar es Salaam after the death of one passenger who was travelling on a bus of this company from Mbeya yesterday in view of the fact that he died from cholera. Immediately after arriving in the city of Dar es Salaam, all passengers who were on this bus which had the licence number SU 16831, were prevented from leaving the KAMATA area until they were given medicine to prevent the spread of this dangerous disease. [Text]
[Dar es Salaam UHURU in Swahili 4 Nov 82 p 4]

CSO: 5400/82

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--In the first 6 months of this year the veterinarian cadres of Nong Bok District, Khammouan Province, organized a move to inject hoof and mouth medicine for cattle throughout different production bases. During that period they were able to give injections to a total of 11,564 head of cattle. This achievement has gradually decreased the diseases which once propagated among the animals, helped the animals to speedily increase in number, and ensured steadily sufficient draft labor for the needs. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 25 Aug 82 p 1] 9884

KHAMMOUAN DISEASE OUTBREAK--From January to September the Khammouan Province animal and veterinarian section has sent a number of specialized task cadres to cooperate with veterinarian units of Nong Bok, Thakhek, Hin Boun, Mahasai, and Gnommalat to give injections for disease prevention, and treated the people's domestic animals with epidemic diseases such as foot and mouth disease, and pasteurellosis. There were over 2300 cattle involved including over 30 cattle that were successfully treated. Meanwhile, these cadres also attentively mobilized the people to take care of and to feed each kind of animal correctly according to scientific and natural science principles, to ensure sufficient draft labor to serve in production, and to respond to and normalize the meat [supply] in the markets in order to gradually improve the standard of living of cadres and working people. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 17 Sep 82 pp 1, 2] 9884

CATTLE DEATHS FROM EPIDEMICS--Since the rainy season this year the veterinarian department along with the veterinarian service in the capital and in many different cities within the municipal area have organized to give injections for animal disease prevention and treatment, especially for large animals such as cattle. The municipal areas involved are Chanthaboury, Sisattanak, Sikottabong, Saisettha, Nosaithong, Saithani, and Hatsaifong Districts. By 27 August the animal injections were successfully completed. Over 25,000 cattle were injected. This amount is a quarter more than the number of animals in this area. As we all know, in the early rainy season this year the Vientiane people's domestic animals as well as domestic animals nationwide have contracted foot and mouth disease, pasteurellosis, and anthrax, causing some losses and making [others] weak and thin. The administrative authorities and the veterinarian department hurriedly sent the veterinarian cadres into the base areas to save the people's animals. This was a great achievement that participated in the expansion of animal husbandry in the five year plan set by the party and the government. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 31 Aug 82 p 1] 9884

BRIEFS

CHICKEN VACCINATIONS--A four-day free vaccination against an outbreak of Newcastle disease which is threatening poultry at Bwemba and Dudu farms surrounding areas will be launched in the city here this Wednesday. The vaccination campaign, which starts from Chinsapo 1 and Chinsapo 11 on November 17, will end on November 22 at Falls Estate and Staff quarters in the city. The campaign will move on to Kaondo, Chilusi, Kuchipangano, Chokhoma and Upper Falls on November 19 and Falls Estate Staff Quarters on November 22, a circular letter from the district veterinary office here said yesterday. Bwemba and Dudu, according to the Department of Animal Health and Husbandry are Lilongwe City's major poultry farms. The district veterinary officer is, therefore, appealing to all poultry farmers in these areas to bring their chickens for vaccination.--Mana [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 18 Nov 82 p 5]

CSO: 5400/76

STATISTICS PROVIDED ON CATTLE DISEASES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 15 Nov 82 p 9

[Article by Murtala Opoola]

[Text]

FEDERAL Government is always ready to combat outbreaks of cattle diseases in the country, the Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. S. B. Oluokun of the Federal Livestock Department in Kaduna has said.

He told the New Nigerian that the government recognised the implications of disease control in our growing livestock industry and indeed had approved proposals for rinderpest control.

The federal government, he said, has appointed a National Co-ordinating Committee on Rinderpest programme in the country.

In a paper he prepared titled: "Joint Education Programme on Rinderpest in Nigeria," Dr. Oluokun advised that rather than lay emphasis on mass vaccination, efforts should be directed to efficient disease reporting, and movement control.

He said the Director, Federal Livestock Department had held meetings with all the Chief Veterinary officers in the states affected by the out-break, adding that the government had approved emergency actions to combat

the problems, while permanent solutions were being sought.

The objective of the disease control programme, Dr. Oluokun reiterated was to raise the immunity of the national herd.

He revealed that the Federal Livestock Department had recorded 20 outbreaks of rinderpest this year; 12 in Sokoto, six in Kaduna and two in Bauchi.

He said there were 846 cases in Sokoto 957 in Kaduna and 1,536 in Bauchi, adding that 37 died in Sokoto, 92 in Kaduna and 115 in Bauchi.

He however revealed that there are problems militating against attempt at combating the diseases.

The problems, he said are inefficiency of disease reporting, lack of field supervision, inadequate supply of vaccines and inadequate funding by the federal and state governments.

Recently, the New Nigerian reported outbreaks of a cattle disease at Nok in the former Jema'a Federation in Kaduna State.

The outbreak involved about 50 heads of cattle.

CSO: 5400/73

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MUYSHONDT ON COFFEE RUST

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 Oct 82 p 3

/Text/ Miguel Muyshondt Yudice, minister of agriculture and livestock, said that the entire country is affected by coffee rust, when he announced yesterday in conference that from 1 January 1983 the Control and Combat Program for this disease will be reoriented once the restructuring of MAG /Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock/ is finalized.

Pointing out that the rust problem is enormous and that the responsibility for its control and combat is not only for the state, the minister was of the opinion that the coffee growers also are obligated to collaborate taking adequate care of their farms. On being asked what zones are most affected by rust, he replied that it is very difficult to say because the ministry, working by means of a regionalist system, which although it certainly establishes boundaries, does not offer as concrete results as if the work had been planned on a national level, in composite form which permits the establishment of exact statistics.

He spoke of the results of the Fifth Symposium on Latin American coffee culture which will take place here from the 20th to the 22nd of this month, will be under the auspices of the ministers of agriculture and livestock together with CIRSA /International Regional Committee on Agriculture and Livestock Sanitation/ which will meet in this capital in the middle of December this year to coordinate a regional plan for combating coffee diseases and epidemics. CIRSA is an organization closely linked to OIRSA /International Regional Organization of Agriculture and Livestock sanitation/.

He reiterated that it is very difficult to say that there is complete control of coffee rust, but, he emphasized, with cultural practices and an adequate and timely application of copper oxychloride, the control and combat program is complied with.

He added that during the symposium a complete report on Salvadoran work in the field of coffee pathology will be presented.

Dr Raul Soikes, expert from IICA /Interamerican Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Cooperation/, which coordinates the event, explained that the Fifth Symposium on Latin American Coffee Culture will bring together people engaged

in technical and scientific coffee research, such as Dr J.A. Bettencourt, of Portugal; Dr Carlos E. Fernandez, from IICA; Dr Alvaro Jimenez Castro, of Costa Rica; Ing Hector Ochoa Millan from Guatemala, and others.

The symposium, according to the organizing committees, will end the 22nd of this month celebrating "Coffee Culture Day" for which MAG has prepared a very special program which will announce coffee-growing projections for 1983.

9678

CSO: 3248/180

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

COTTON PLAGUE--This year's prolonged drought is contributing to the spreading of a pest that is damaging cotton plantations in El Salvador, according to a MAG [Agriculture and Livestock Ministry report. In this connection, it points out that the cotton pest, under study during the past 6 weeks, called the Acara Agalla Verruga, gestates chiefly as a result of the long drought and then damages cotton plantations. The pest is a mite of the Eriophyidae family. The report says that "we previously reported that various samples were sent to the United States to determine later effects." The MAG says that it is aware of the case and that it considers it to be of very great interest. It has determined the conditions that have favored the explosion of this pest in the areas where cotton is cultivated in our country. One of the conditions cited by the MAG is the increase in the initial population, owing to nonincorporation of stubble and "trimmed branches" by cotton growers to convert the crop into a permanent one. Another condition that was pointed out is the lack of natural enemies of this pest: in this case, the small Tetratichus SP wasp, and the Trips Scolothrips Sexmalatus, as well as the Coccinellidos Scymnus SP and Delphatus SB insects that exist in El Salvador, but are eliminated through improper use of pesticides. The other factor, previously mentioned, is the prolonged drought of 1982. MAG personnel have recommended that Salvadoran cotton growers trim branches and incorporate stubble at the end of the season. [Text] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 31 Oct 82 pp 3, 7] 8255

CSO: 5400/2026

PHILIPPINES

LEAF RUST HITS NEGROS SUGAR FARMS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 23 Nov 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] BACOLOD CITY (PNA)--The word is out. The deadly leaf rust which wiped out several years back the sugarcane plantations of Cuba has been spreading rapidly in the Hawaiian-Philippines Company (HPCO) milling district in Silay city.

Leaf rust has already heavily affected some 450 hectares and slightly affected about 800 other hectares in the milling district.

The spread of leaf rust or Melano Sebala was confirmed Sunday by William Henry Streegan, community relations officer of the Jardine-Davies HPCO.

He said a plant pathologist from the La Granja research station of the Philippine Sugar Commission had inspected the area and positively identified the rust-colored sugarcane as suffering from the deadly virus-transmitted disease.

Streegan said several affected planters in the Heco area have issued an appeal to the Philsucom planters and millers relations office for assistance in curbing leaf rust which usually depletes as much as 10 to 20 per cent of sugar production of infected sugarcane.

Leaf rust has also been spotted in some plantations in the San Carlos city sugar central milling district.

The leaf rust has affected only the Philippine 56226 variety of sugarcane, Streegan disclosed.

Philsucom Visayas-Mindanao regional manager Eduardo Gamboa said he will confer today with Fernando Cuenca, executive officer of research and development of the region supervising the La Granja Research Center, on the menace that could threaten the sugarcane plantations of the entire province of Negros Occidental.

CSO: 5400/4337

PHILIPPINES

WOOLY APHIDS INVADE SOUTHERN CEBU

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 11 Nov 82 pp 1, 13

[Text] Director Celso J. Palma Gil of the agriculture ministry here announced today the resurgence of one of the injurious plant pests known as wooly aphids which is now infesting the economic crops of the province. The infestation is now appraised at epidemic proportion.

Most affected are the southern municipalities of Cebu. The northern part is not yet affected but chances are it will also suffer the same fate as its southern counterpart if the pests is left unchecked. [as published] Farmers are advised to get in touch with MA technician in their area for the control of the dreaded pests.

Wooly Aphids are plant lice that are covered with dense coat of white filaments somewhat resembling fine wool or cotton. Adults are fast flyers and can easily spread from place to place. Its seemingly unsatiable sucking activity weakens the plant making it more susceptible to other pest as well as to diseases. In addition, the production of honeydew provides favorable substrate for sooty molds which often interfere with photosynthesis and transpiration. Heavily affected plants eventually die.

According to Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Plant Pest Surveillance officer, Federico Baylon, Jr. wooly aphids will infest such crops as corn, vegetables, sugar cane and fruit trees, especially those with leaves having rough surfaces.

Baylon said that the pest can be effectively controlled by spraying with such insecticides as Tamaron, Pennant, and Hosthation.

CSO: 5400/4332

END